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REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following arguments. A petition to extend the time for response by two (2) months is enclosed herewith.

Claims 1, 7, and 12 have been amended. Claims 1-7 and 10-12 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-7 and 10-13 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 as being assertedly indefinite. Claim 13 has been cancelled by prior amendment. The specification stands under objection as providing no antecedent basis for the claimed term "collar".

The applicant has addressed and corrected each instance cited by the examiner as giving rise to the indefiniteness of the claims. First, proper antecedent basis has been provided for "the interior" (See claim 1, line 8). "The interior" in this case refers to the interior of the cooktop.

In claim 1 and throughout the claims, "gas flow" has been defined as flowing from a fuel source to the burner. Further, in claim 1, lines 5-6 each said finger in the base is defined as having an interior.

In claim 1, lines 8-10, the recitation regarding gas leakage has been clarified to state that fluid leakage between the base and the interior of the cooktop is substantially foreclosed. Such fluid can be gas or liquid, as defined in the specification, paragraph 0017. Further, the recitation of "the fingers" as identified in Claims 1-7 and 10-12 has been clarified.

Based on the foregoing, the rejection of claims 1-7 and 10-13 under 35 USC 112 has been rendered moot and it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

The reference to the "collar" in the claims has been removed. Therefore the objection to the specification has been rendered moot and it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Martin 838 in view of Haynes 754 or JP 59-52113. The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and submits to the contrary that the present invention, as defined in the

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amended claims is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited references, taken singly or in any combination. The primary reference fails to disclose the structure of the present invention giving rise to the sealing arrangement between the base and the interior of the cooktop. Neither of the secondary references cures this deficiency and it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-6 under 35 USC 103 be withdrawn.

Claim 7, 10, 11, and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious in light of Martin 838 over Graves 230. The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and submits to the contrary that the present invention, as defined in the amended claims is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited references, taken singly or in any combination. Neither reference discloses or suggests the combination of the indexer and the sealing arrangement discussed above. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 7, 10, 11 and 12 be withdrawn.

For the reasons stated above, the present claims define over the cited references and it is respectfully requested that the present application be allowed and passed to issue.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted


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